

Design Guidelines

Commemorating the Bicentennial Anniversary of
the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Washington

Final
Draft



Prepared for the State of Washington

Submitted by The Otak Team

Collaborating Agencies:

Washington State Historical Society

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

*Washington State Department of Community Trade
and Economic Development (Tourism Office)*

Washington State Department of Transportation

APRIL 2000

Summary

The Lewis and Clark Design Guidelines cover the design of outdoor interpretive exhibits, signs, and other elements that will be constructed in Washington State in anticipation of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration (2003 - 2006). Because of the importance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the potential for associated educational and tourism opportunities, a consortium of state agencies have created these guidelines. The guidelines will be used by these agencies, and are encouraged to be used by all others to provide continuity and increase the opportunities for resources and funding.

For those unfamiliar with the process of creating outdoor exhibits or who want to review the steps involved, refer to Section II, “How to Create Interpretive Exhibits — The Process.” Section II covers the four main steps including:

1) Getting Started, which involves reviewing the Design Guidelines, the *Lewis and Clark Interpretive and Tourism Plan*, and brainstorming.

2) Planning, which includes determining goals, themes, the audience, parameters, resources, and the site. Other considerations during planning include the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the site context and ownership, and the availability of resources.

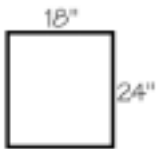



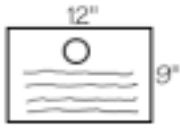
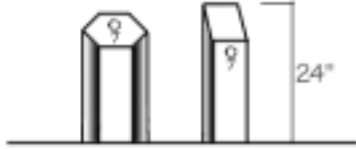
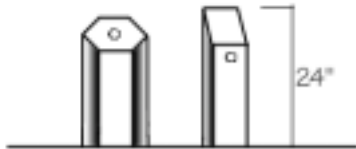
3) Design Process, which addresses the design team and the agencies and resources needed to meet schedules and to ensure accuracy and consistency.

4) Implementation, which covers completing the final review and getting permits, then fabricating, constructing, and installing.

The Design Guidelines are based on Washington’s story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition described in Section III. The imagery, regional context, and suggested interpretive topics capture the spirit of exploration that was part of the Lewis and Clark Expedition as they travelled through what is now known as Washington. This draws upon a mix of recognizable elements, some continuous and some unique. Continuity will be established through visual and thematic cues derived from elements and impressions of early 1800s frontier exploration, the Corps of Discovery, trade, the “Age of Enlightenment”, and traveling the Snake and Columbia Rivers. Regional characteristics will be derived from the distinct natural environments and native cultures encountered by Lewis and Clark in Southeastern Washington, the Columbia River Gorge, and Southwestern Washington.

The link between present day visitors and the Lewis and Clark Expedition will be made through interpretation which is discussed in Section IV, “Interpretive Guidelines.” The interpretive theme, told through strong interpretive graphics and minimal text, is one key to a successful outdoor exhibit. The exhibit must also fit within the site’s physical and historic context by having a direct relationship to the Lewis and Clark story.

Each site will be part of a larger network of interpretation along the Lewis and Clark Trail. In addition to interpretive exhibits, there will be orientation panels and signage to direct visitors, and other elements constructed to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Guidelines for this network of improvements, as well as bases, stands, and kiosks, are provided in Section V, “Outdoor Exhibits, Markers, and Other Elements”. The following matrix summarizes the major elements envisioned for interpreting and commemorating the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Washington.

TYPE:	USE:	MOUNTING:
OUTDOOR EXHIBITS  <p>DETAILED INTERPRETIVE PANEL</p>  <p>STANDARD INTERPRETIVE PANEL</p>  <p>ORIENTATION PANEL</p>	<p>For most detailed interpretation on specific subjects</p> <p>For thematic interpretation on major subjects</p> <p>For orientation displays (or major interpretation)</p>	<p>Low profile base or stand</p> <p>Low profile base or stand</p> <p>Upright on kiosk, base or stand</p>
OTHER ELEMENTS  <p>WASHINGTON STATE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION BICENTENNIAL SMALL PLAQUE</p>  <p>WASHINGTON STATE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION BICENTENNIAL LARGE PLAQUE</p>  <p>TRAIL MARKER/MILEPOST</p>  <p>SITE MARKER</p>	<p>For marking elements built specifically for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in Washington</p> <p>For marking and commemorating special elements and memorials in Washington</p> <p>For marking Lewis and Clark interpretive trails in Washington</p> <p>For marking minor sites and viewpoints on Lewis and Clark interpretive trails in Washington</p>	<p>Securely adhered to base structure by bolting or epoxy</p> <p>Securely adhered to base structure by bolting or epoxy</p> <p>Securely adhere Lewis and Clark Bicentennial small plaque and number by bolting or epoxy</p> <p>Securely adhere Lewis and Clark Bicentennial small plaque and number by bolting or epoxy</p>

I. Introduction

Summary of Washington's Lewis and Clark Story

In the Autumn of 1805, after crossing the Lolo Trail through the Bitterroot



Corps of Discovery Compass

Mountains of present day Idaho, the Corps of Discovery, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, descended into Nez Perce homelands. The party was weak and exhausted from near starvation. The Nez Perce let them recuperate in their villages and provided them with salmon and camas roots. Not accustomed to this new diet, the party became extremely ill. Fearing the oncoming winter, they needed to get to the Pacific Ocean as quickly as possible. Now fighting sickness, they mustered some energy to cut down large trees for canoes, but had little strength to carve them out. The Nez Perce showed them another method—burning out the logs with hot stones. By early October, the Corps had five canoes and had acquired enough supplies through trading to begin the final leg of their journey to their ultimate goal, the Pacific Ocean. Intimately tied to the native cultures and environment, the descent from the Clearwater down the Snake and Columbia rivers to the ocean is the story of Lewis and Clark in Washington.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition is perhaps the most important historical story of our time. It embodies the notions of vision, leadership, teamwork, and friendship set on

the theme of exploration and a quest for knowing and understanding. From the native plants and animals to native cultures and the landscape, the essence of learning embodied in the concept of exploration will be the key to Lewis and Clark interpretation in Washington State.

The Lewis and Clark Design Guidelines begin a process of bringing the lessons of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the traveling public of Washington, citizens and visitors alike, through the installation of a new generation of outdoor interpretive exhibits and orientation signage. The exhibits will help travelers discover, as the Corps of Discovery did almost 200 years ago, the rich diversity of nature and culture that we have in Washington. Many important aspects of the Washington segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail will be interpreted, such as:

- The saving encounter with the Nez Perce;
- The emergence for the Corps of Discovery into the world of “known geography” upon reaching the Columbia River and sighting the conical mountains;
- The drama of the Snake and Columbia river passages through dangerous falls and rapids;
- The harrowing last days of trying to reach the Pacific Ocean in the face of raging, gale-force winds, rains, and waves;
- The ultimate success of establishing a “station” or terminal camp on the Washington side of the river in November of 1805, from where members of the Corps of Discovery first crossed Cape Disappointment and reached the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Station Camp was also the site of an original moment in the history of the American West, where democratic participation in the form of a “vote” by the entire expedition took place to determine the location for winter encampment.

I. Introduction

Travelers will discover through interpretation that like Lewis and Clark, the places, events, native people, and wildlife embody not only historical significance, but also universally powerful themes.

Statement of Purpose

In anticipation of the 200th anniversary of the Corps of Discovery's expedition to the Pacific Coast led by Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, a consortium of Washington State agencies has teamed to create the *Lewis and Clark Interpretive and Tourism Plan* based upon a rigorous public involvement effort. This document, the Design Guidelines, is a component of the Plan. The purpose of the Design Guidelines is to:

- Provide the foundation for establishing a consistent Lewis and Clark Trail orientation and interpretive network across the State of Washington.
- Strive for national continuity with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail by drawing upon the National Historic Trail Design Guidelines established by the National Park Service.
- Act as a catalyst for conveying the unique environmental and cultural characteristics of Washington to travelers through the "lens" of the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
- Provide information to ensure accuracy and quality of interpretation and orientation within Washington State.
- Promote the educational value of the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition through orientation signage and outdoor interpretive exhibits. Interpretation along the trail will provide a "field school" to complement the wide range of other educational programming that will occur



Public Meeting for Lewis and Clark Interpretive and Tourism Planning

before, during, and after the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial (2003 to 2006).

- Promote long-term educational and tourism development along the trail through formal and informal cultural tourism opportunities.

Agency Advisory Team

The consortium of Washington State agencies formed an Agency Advisory Team (AAT) to lead the development of the Design Guidelines. The AAT includes representatives from the:

- Washington State Historical Society
- Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development, Tourism Office
- Washington State Department of Transportation

These agencies have collaborated to provide input, guidance, and review during the process of developing the Design Guidelines.

The project is being funded through state funds allocated by the state legislature, as

I. Introduction

well as a federal scenic byway grant and additional state matching funds.

What do these Guidelines Address?

This document provides information on the design of outdoor exhibits, orientation signage, and other related elements intended for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail within the State of Washington. For those unfamiliar with design and construction, an overview of the process is included in Section II, “How to Create Interpretive Exhibits — The Process.” Section III, “Washington’s Lewis and Clark Story,” describes the inspirational elements that were drawn from to develop Section IV, “Interpretive Guidelines”. Section V, “Outdoor Exhibits, Markers, and Other Elements” provides guidelines for design of outdoor exhibits including interpretive and orientation panels that will interpret the story of the Corps of Discovery through the State of Washington and orient



Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Sign

visitors to important Lewis and Clark Expedition sites.

Design guidelines for Lewis and Clark Trail Highway signage includes a series of signs to help direct visitors:

- Trailblazer Logo Signs mark the Lewis and Clark Trail Highways throughout all states along the trail.
- Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Signs mark turnoffs from highways to specific official historic sites along the trail designated by the National Park Service.
- Supplemental Guide Signs direct travelers along the Lewis and Clark Trail Highways to major turnoffs and connections.
- Gateway Signs mark entry to the Lewis and Clark Trail Highway system at major entry points.

In addition, there are guidelines for other related elements such as trail markers, site markers, and monuments.

Who Should Use These Guidelines?

These guidelines are intended to help any person, group, or agency that is interested in telling the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Washington through outdoor interpretation, and/or anyone who wants to orient visitors as they travel along the Lewis and Clark Trail. Guidelines are provided for the construction of new or the renovation of existing interpretive and orientation exhibits and signage. For Lewis and Clark Expedition interpretive improvements on public lands owned by Washington State or within the rights-of-way of state highways, these guidelines will be followed. For all others, following the guidelines is strongly encouraged.

Why Follow These Guidelines?

Washington and the rest of the country are gearing up for the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which will officially start in 2003. The guidelines will help guide and focus the design of interpretive and orientation exhibits that will be needed for visitors and events associated with the

I. Introduction

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial era and beyond. Commemoration events will cover the time of the 200th anniversary of the Expedition, but the interpretive and orientation improvements will be a legacy for future generations. By following the guidelines, this legacy of exhibits can ensure a powerful interpretive continuity throughout the state and will likely increase funding and resource opportunities by demonstrating a link to a larger program.

Continuity

These guidelines will help create a sense of continuity for interpretive and orientation improvements within Washington and beyond. Continuity with other states along the Lewis and Clark Trail will also be enhanced because these guidelines draw, in part, from the National Historic Trail guidelines prepared by the National Park Service. Continuity can be achieved through similarity rather than duplication. Visually linking similar, easily recognizable elements will give travellers a clear indication that a specific site is a Lewis and Clark Expedition interpretive site and part of a larger interpretive network. This will be a continuous system, even though the details of the site and its interpretation will be unique to that site.

Continuity is important for the following reasons:

- By creating a continuous network of interpretation, Washington's story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition can be fully explored with important themes being reinforced from one site to another. The richness of this story can be more fully interpreted by linking stories and themes between sites.
- With each interpretive site being both part of the larger Lewis and Clark story, and also unique, visitors will be encouraged to continue the journey to visit other sites,

centers, and trails to understand all significant aspects of the Lewis and Clark Expedition history.

- A continuous educational opportunity across the state will reinforce the awareness, interest, and popularity in the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.



One of the Older "Reader Board" style signs along the Lewis and Clark Trail in Washington

Funding and Resource Opportunities

Using these guidelines to create a continuous system of interpretive and orientation exhibits that are part of a statewide and national effort to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, will likely increase the availability of resources and the potential for funding.

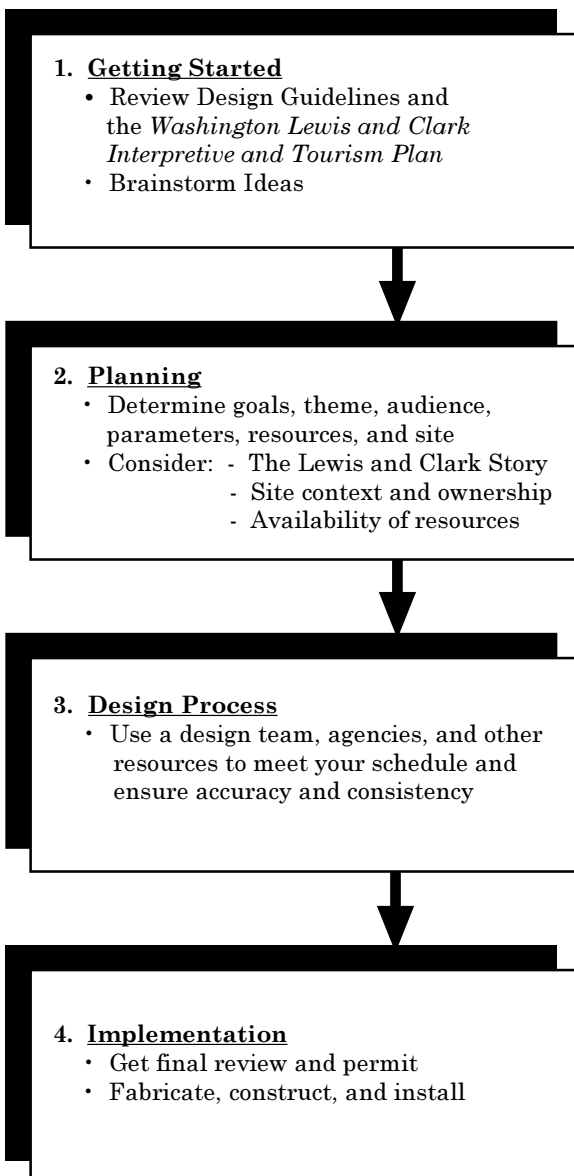
- Grants and other funding opportunities are more likely supported when linked to and part of larger efforts. Because commemorating Lewis and Clark Expedition heritage is a significant statewide effort in alignment with national efforts, there appears to be greater potential for funding when part of a larger scheme.
- As the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration date approaches, some resource incentives may be linked to projects that are consistent and compatible with the statewide planning effort.

I. Introduction

- There is a great potential for a sharing of resources between various Lewis and Clark organizations. A coordinated effort could significantly increase the success and decrease the cost of an interpretive project.
- There is a high potential for crossover into other media, as well as the other Lewis and Clark Bicentennial focus areas, such as events and education, in order to tap into more resources. This cross fertilization of funding and resources should increase as the bicentennial approaches.
- Don't reinvent the wheel. By using these guidelines, the effort, cost, and time of creating a new interpretive exhibit will be lessened. It will be quicker and easier than starting from scratch. Fabrication will be less expensive if coordinated for quantity discounts.

II. How to Create Interpretive Exhibits — The Process

Using these design guidelines is a great first step toward creating a Lewis and Clark Trail interpretive or orientation outdoor exhibit. Next, there are four basic steps you should follow to create interpretive exhibits. This section will help you understand this process, as well as provide some guidance and hopefully some inspiration. Here are the four basic steps:



Existing State Park Kiosk

1. Getting Started

A range of ideas for interpretive and orientation exhibits appropriate for outdoor use along Washington's segment of the Lewis and Clark Trail are included in these Design Guidelines. The ideas can be used as a starting point to generate options, suggestions, and considerations for outdoor exhibits. Start by browsing the contents of the guidelines to get a sense of the variety of possible elements ranging from orientation highway signs to interpretive panels and multifaceted interpretive kiosks. Brainstorm ideas for the various types of exhibits. Each element should have an appropriate scale, function, and purpose related to its context. Think about context sensitive design while browsing and brainstorming.

In addition to these guidelines, the *Washington Lewis and Clark Interpretive and Tourism Plan* provides recommendations for specific project improvements and interpretation for sites along the trail. The plan describes many potential sites in need of new or renovated interpretive exhibits.

Exhibits should fit with a site's physical and thematic context. The context includes not only the potential site, but also the story or theme that should be explored at that site related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

II. How to Create Interpretive Exhibits — The Process

The level of investment and effort should be based on the historical significance of the site in terms of Lewis and Clark Expedition history, and also the site's location and development potential. The next step, planning, will help to clearly assess the potential for the site and exhibit.

2. Planning

Planning is a critical step used to focus ideas into action. It is a dynamic process where the assessment of various opportunities and constraints can be weighed, and creative solutions can be developed. The following questions should be answered as part of the planning process:

- *What are the **goals**?*
Goals clarify why the project should be done and what is to be accomplished. They describe the project's importance. Define the purpose with goals.
- *What is the dominant **theme**?*
What, in particular, do the visitors need to be told? Visitors should learn about the theme and carry it on with them. The message and impression are made through a focused theme relating to an aspect of the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition related to Washington.
- *Who will be the **audience**?*
Expect visitors of all ages, abilities, and nationalities. The interpretive exhibit should reach a broad audience and be accessible for all types of visitors. Try to understand all visitors' needs, interests, and expectations.



A Chinook canoe photograph in 1910 by Edward S. Curtis

- *What is possible within the **parameters**?*
Consider the opportunities and constraints for developing the exhibit. Consider site parameters relating to special qualities, history, resources, location, sensitive areas, etc.
- *What **resources** are available?*
Resources will help realize the vision of completing the project whether related to funding, labor, donations, site, and/or partners that share interest in the project goals. Consider future resources that may be available as well.
- *What is the potential of the **site**?*
Site enhancement or development reinforces the exhibit's desired communication. The site should be planned to facilitate the communication process for the intended audience, and to inspire the best possible interpretation. Plan the site so it supports the most appropriate interpretive message.

Important Planning Considerations

Through this planning process of determining and evaluating the goals, audience, parameters, resources, theme, and site, the following should be defined and refined:

Focusing on the Story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

The history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is the most important factor in interpretation that commemorates the bicentennial. The site's location in relation to the events, exploration activities, or other aspects of the Expedition will be crucial in determining what interpretive element will serve your needs best. As you consider the story to be told, ask the following questions:

II. How to Create Interpretive Exhibits — The Process

- What actually happened to the Corps of Discovery at or near this site?
- What are the facts?
- What do the journals say and show, and how should they be interpreted?
- What is the same and what has changed?

Places along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail where there is an opportunity



The Snake River

to tell a unique aspect of the story and present a theme should be evaluated to determine the appropriateness for development or the need for protection. Stories with themes are what the visitors want and what they will remember.

Getting the Facts Straight: True History, not Folklore

Accurate interpretation of the events of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is important. Interpretive accuracy and consistency must be maintained throughout the state. In community meetings across Washington, public participants expressed a strong interest in accurate interpretation and being “true to the history” of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

We all know that history has a way of recreating itself over time. Myths and legends passed down over the years related to Lewis and Clark are plentiful. For

example, many Northwesterners have claimed that William Clark climbed to the tops of Hat Rock and Beacon Rock. There is no evidence in the journals of the Corps of Discovery to substantiate these claims. Clark climbed many hills and slopes, and he did name these two rock formations, but nowhere in his journal, or in any of the other journals of the Expedition, is it written that he climbed these two beloved “icons” of the trail.

Other myths include beliefs that Clark canoed as far up the Columbia River as the mouth of the Yakima River and that Sacagawea guided the Expedition across the country. Some creative tales told over the years about the journey have often been the result of “unsolved mysteries” in the pages of the journals. Also, because modern-day geography has changed so much in 200 years, it is very difficult to identify the precise locations of campsites and significant events that occurred during the Expedition. Many islands, campsites, and shorelines described in the journals are now located under the slackwaters of the dams along the Snake and Columbia rivers.

So, “getting the facts straight” is an important part of developing interpretation for exhibits along the trail. This includes making sure that illustrations, photographs, and maps used in interpretation are historically and culturally accurate, as well as the written text. Be sure to check your reference materials with Lewis and Clark Trail historical experts. Also, representatives from the tribes in your region should be involved in the process of developing interpretive subject matter to further verify cultural and historical information.

The Site Context

The importance of the story, message, or theme should be balanced with site

II. How to Create Interpretive Exhibits — The Process

parameters. As you evaluate interpretive opportunities related to the site, ask the following questions:

- What and where are the best features of the site?
- Are there important or enjoyable views that can be enhanced?
- What are the special qualities that a visitor should be made aware of?

Develop an intimate understanding of the site. Consider the functional aspects of the site and how access may occur. Consider site features such as size, space, slope, plants, animals, water features, and seasonal variations.

Consider the site's proximity to other interpretation and tourism activities. Many of these factors were weighed in the *Lewis and Clark Interpretive and Tourism Plan*, which recommends sites to be developed. It is a good source to start with.

Respecting Sensitive Cultural Sites, Habitat Areas, and Private Properties

Confirm ownership and assess the environmental conditions at your site. Knowing ownership and environmental conditions will clarify expectations and feasibility early in the process.

In Washington, and all along the trail, there are many Expedition-related sites that are considered to be “sensitive” for various reasons. These sites may be sensitive because they are considered to be sacred or traditional sites by Native Americans. Some sites are sensitive because they are habitat for rare or endangered flora and fauna. In other cases, property owners may not wish to share their privately-owned Expedition-related sites with the general public. Some sites may be physically sensitive and not capable of withstanding too many people visiting them.

Be aware of the interpretive information you include in your exhibits, avoiding specific references to sites or mapped locations that may be culturally or biologically sensitive. When referencing specific landmarks and geologic features that are located on private property, be sure to indicate on the exhibit that the feature is not publicly accessible, and provide other educational messages that will help to preserve the sensitive nature of sites (i.e. laws prohibiting the collection of artifacts, “no public access beyond this



State Park Sign in Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

point,” “please respect adjacent private properties,” etc.)

Interpretive exhibits and travel guides can help to protect sensitive areas by clearly directing the public to non-sensitive sites for experiencing the history and providing information that protects sensitive areas, as well as the safety of the traveling public (warning of rattlesnakes in the area, for example.) Some sensitive tribal sites and habitat areas may simply be “off limits” to the public, so always verify conditions in the area as part of planning your interpretive exhibit.

Pulling Together the Resources You Need

Resources will make or break the project. Resources include not only money, but also

II. How to Create Interpretive Exhibits — The Process

the availability of a site, partnerships, knowledgeable and talented people, volunteers, services, equipment, and even donated materials.

- Realistically evaluate all resources to determine the appropriate type and scale of exhibit. It is always better to do something well that is less ambitious, than to have a grand idea that cannot be realized.
- Balance resources with accurate cost estimates. This will require research and may require professional advice. Many costs will vary depending on availability of materials and labor.
- Use volunteers as a resource. This can sometimes offset lack of other resources. Recruit specialists such as design professionals or construction and manufacturing specialists to improve an exhibit's quality and to save time and money.
- Secure funding and other resources as soon as possible. There are publicly funded grants available through state and federal agencies. Private grants, donations, and miscellaneous fund raising activities deserve serious consideration. Many times, a grant can be leveraged through matching resources where the costs can be spread between different sources. For your use, a list of potential funding opportunities is included in the Appendix.

Coordinating with Your Neighbors to Avoid Repetition

It will be important for interpretation to be coordinated across the state in order to avoid repeating the same aspects of the Lewis and Clark story over and over again.

A list of people who recently have been involved in Lewis and Clark Bicentennial planning efforts from the various regions and communities across Washington is included in the Appendix to facilitate the coordination process. If you are planning an interpretive exhibit, you are encouraged to coordinate with representatives from other communities along the trail to understand their plans for interpretive projects and the topics they plan to cover.

Ideally, each interpretive exhibit should be unique. Collectively, the exhibits should tell a continuous story across Washington, leading visitors from one location to the next. One way to accomplish this and to minimize repetitive interpretation is to focus on topics and stories that are unique to the project site or region. Refer to the *Lewis and Clark Interpretive and Tourism Plan* for descriptions of specific events of the Lewis and Clark Expedition related to sites along the trail in Washington. The plan also provides a timeline of the events of the



View of Wallula Gap

Expedition that occurred during the time the Corps of Discovery was in what is now Washington. A summary of significant events of the Expedition by region is also provided in the plan. The timeline and events described in the plan could form the basis of interpretive subject matter for your project.

II. How to Create Interpretive Exhibits — The Process

3. Design Process

Through planning, feasibility is determined. An interpretive solution that best suits the context of the story, site, and available resources will be derived. The design process distills a vision from all the parameters, clarifies it, and places it on paper. The challenge of the design process is to achieve the goals in the most simple and elegant way. To meet this challenge, the right team, the appropriate resources, and an understanding of the factors that affect the schedule will be needed.

Design Professionals

Many design professionals are consultants, some of whom specialize in this type of creative work involving historic, cultural, and natural interpretation for outdoor exhibits. These include planners, interpretive artists and writers, historians, naturalists, scientists, graphic artists, architects, and landscape architects. Depending on the project, some or all of these may be needed.

For the design of the interpretive panels along the Lewis and Clark Trail, interpretive specialists might consist of a team including an interpretive artist, a writer specializing in historic and cultural subjects, and a historian. These are specialists that can take an idea and turn it into finished text and artwork. Some of these professionals can also coordinate the panel fabrication, choosing the best material and fabricator to suit the needs of the project.

Although there are some existing standard bases, stands, or kiosks on which panels could be mounted, the design of custom bases (presented as conceptual sketches later in these guidelines) will likely require the services of an architect or landscape architect before construction. These

designers often work closely with the leading agency and other project stakeholders. With the help of a landscape architect, a good site plan will help to ensure the interpretive exhibit is fully integrated into the site, being sensitive to the site's qualities, access, and environmental conditions. These professionals will produce a set of design plans and construction documents used to do a cost estimate, hire a contractor, and get the permits required for construction and installation. In some cases, if there are site development issues involving roadways and drainage, a civil engineer may also be required as part of the team. If not already addressed in the planning process, environmental specialists such as wetland biologists may need to be brought in early in the design process to do an environmental site assessment.

Public Agencies

Public agencies can provide various types of assistance, including written materials and contacts. They can help to clarify requirements and access other resources. Some agencies will review the proposed exhibit plans depending on location, exhibit content, and the site's environmental condition. Whether state, federal, or other public land, the land's managing agency or commission must be notified. Early communication will help avoid disappointment and investment in a design for undevelopable sites. In some cases, public agencies will consider partnering with other agencies or groups in order to increase the potential for a worthwhile project to move forward. A partnership increases the potential for funding and access to other resources.

Construction will require permitting as defined by the site's underlying jurisdiction. This may be a city, county, tribe, or a state or federal agency. Each may have their own

II. How to Create Interpretive Exhibits — The Process

process and codes that will have to be met in order to build. All public facilities are required to meet the standards and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Finding out requirements prior to design will ensure the proposed exhibit is feasible. In some cases, there are other guidelines or requirements, such as in the Columbia Gorge, a nationally designated scenic area with required guidelines.

Reference Materials— Finding Information for Your Interpretive Project

An important part of the design process is research. Research will generate ideas, help define what is feasible, and help focus the content of the interpretive story at your site.

Reference materials, such as this document, are available through the public agencies participating in this effort and at many libraries. Historical societies are also good sources of reference information. There are also numerous books on the subject of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, as well as the journals themselves.

In referencing journal excerpts, there are several editions of the Lewis and Clark Expedition journals available, including Dr. Gary E. Moulton's edition, *Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Volumes 1 through 12*, highly regarded by most Lewis and Clark history scholars as the most comprehensive and up-to-date edition.

Other sources of information are listed in the bibliography in the appendix of these Design Guidelines. In addition to documents and books, there are many historical experts and scholars on the Lewis and Clark Expedition across the country who have a wealth of knowledge on the history of The Corps of Discovery.

In Washington, the Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee is available as a

resource for verifying the accuracy of proposed interpretive subject matter. Contact information for the committee is listed in the Appendix.

Tribal representatives can help when information in the Lewis and Clark Journals might be "sketchy" and when more detail is needed. The perspectives of Native Americans along the trail should be included as part of Lewis and Clark interpretive projects. A list of tribal representatives is included in the Appendix. Also, refer to Section III, "Washington's Lewis and Clark Story" for more discussion related to tribal perspectives.

Depending on the context of your interpretive exhibit, you may also want to consult with professional archaeologists, natural scientists, ecologists, biologists, and other site-appropriate experts as part of your project.



Historic Photo of Beacon Rock

Historic photographs can also be valuable for use in interpretive exhibits, including photos from the 1800s and aerial photography of the rivers prior to the existence of the dams. These photographs can provide visual depictions of what the landscape was like when the Lewis and Clark Expedition passed through.

II. How to Create Interpretive Exhibits — The Process

A Note About Using Journal Excerpts

It is important to use the exact words in the journals to tell the story, and to help visitors understand the story as it was told by the members of the Expedition. It is recommended practice to use exact quotes and excerpts from the journals, with the spelling and grammar left in context. This also helps to ensure that stories are related accurately, according to how they were told in the journals.

When direct quotes and excerpts from the journals are used, the text should be shown within quotation marks. The text can also be shown in a special font type or in italics to help set it apart from other text that is not directly from the journals.

All other text that is not directly from the journals should be grammatically correct and spelled accurately. Check with tribal representatives on accurate spelling of Native American words and names of tribes (such as “Yakama” and “Klikitat,” which vary from geographic spellings in the region.)

Obtaining Permission to Use Information and Graphics

It is important to obtain permission to use written information, graphics, maps, photographs, and illustrations from their sources. Several agencies and institutions including historical societies, museums, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, tribes, and universities own the rights to Lewis and Clark materials, graphics, illustrations, and historic photographs. Although some graphics and information are already considered to be within the “public domain” and available for general public use, it is always important to verify the ability to use all materials proposed for interpretive exhibits.

Factors that Affect the Design Process and Schedule

Design is the process of developing the plans for what is to be built. This process can take anywhere from a few months to years depending on the complexity of the project and the site, but some of the common factors that affect the schedule include:

Property Ownership and Review

The property owner may be private or public. If private, the owner (and neighboring properties) must be in agreement with what is proposed. If the project is on public land, consent and review by the agency managing the property will be required. Also, check with the local approving jurisdiction (county or city) to determine if any special zoning or building permits are required.

Funding

The project must be funded and that funding will need to be secured before the project can be built. With many grants, it takes time from when the grant application is approved to when the funds are actually available. Sometimes funds are procured for phases of a project instead of the whole project, causing delay between phases.

Decision Making

When a large number of people are involved in the decision-making process, coordination, approval, and integration of their input and comments can lengthen a project’s schedule.

Changes

Once a design becomes more refined, changes can become a large investment of time. Even changes that seem minor can create a chain reaction of adjustments that will be required to accommodate that one change. It is always better to address all issues early in the design process when changes can more easily be incorporated into the design.

II. How to Create Interpretive Exhibits — The Process



Viewpoint Overlooking the Snake River

Bicentennial Project Coordination

All proposed interpretive projects should be reviewed by the Agency Advisory Team (AAT) group representing a consortium of state agencies who are overseeing the state's efforts in preparing for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. If you are planning an interpretive project related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Washington, you will want to contact the Washington State Historical Society, acting as the lead agency for the AAT (refer to the Appendix for contact information). Remember the AAT's goal is not to force you into a pre-determined program. Rather, it is to help your exhibit become a "must see" stop along the trail of one of the most exciting stories our state has to tell.

4. Implementation

Implementation of the design is the process of getting final approval and permits, selecting a contractor and sign manufacturer, getting the project constructed, and having the panels fabricated and installed.

Final Review and Permits

From the design process, you will have a set of plans, construction documents for site work, a detailed cost estimate, and the

graphic layouts for the interpretive panels. With these plans, a site, and funding in place, you will now be ready to implement the project. Implementation starts with final review, approval, and permitting through the appropriate jurisdiction's requirements. The construction documents prepared by the architect and/or landscape architect will be submitted to the permitting agency. In addition to the local jurisdictional requirements, there may be other reviews and approvals needed prior to permitting. For example, in areas such as the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, or along other scenic corridors, there are required design guidelines.

If you are proposing a project on tribal lands or projects whose subject matter involves Native Americans, be sure to review with representatives of the tribe or tribes. Proposed interpretation should be sensitive to, and can benefit from, Native American perspectives and insights into the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Also, as noted previously, Lewis and Clark interpretive projects should be reviewed by the AAT as coordinated by the Washington State Historical Society. Be sure to provide all reviewing groups with ample time to review. Review may result in a request for corrections, enhancements, and clarification before final permits are approved.

Fabrication, Construction, and Installation

With finished design plans and permits, fabrication of interpretive signs and construction of interpretive exhibits can begin. In some cases, sign fabrication could begin prior to permits, if it is certain the project will be approved. The sign fabricator should be scheduled ahead of time to ensure the interpretive panels are finished and delivered on time, in order to be installed near the end of construction.

II. How to Create Interpretive Exhibits — The Process

It is recommended that the site development work and the construction of the sign stand or kiosk structure be done by a licensed contractor. For publicly funded work and many times with private work, contractors are asked to submit a competitive bid for the work. The contractor is then selected based on the bid. On privately funded work, the contractor is sometimes selected through personal recommendation. The general contractor, in either case, will be responsible for building the project according to the design shown in the construction documents.

III. Washington's Lewis and Clark Story

Imagery, Regional Context, and Suggested Interpretive Topics

When we think of the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and its relationship to Washington state, distinct impressions and images come to mind.

The experiences of the journey come alive in the pages of the journals of Lewis and Clark and other members of the party. Through reading the journals, we are able to visualize the story within its time and place, and we can imagine the experiences of Lewis and Clark as they journeyed down the Snake and Columbia Rivers to the Pacific Ocean in the fall of 1805 and their return in the spring of 1806.

With this statewide effort, we have an incredible opportunity to capture the experiences of the Corps of Discovery through interpretation, creating a broader understanding of the story and its historical significance. Our goal is to create a continuous network of interpretation and orientation information along the Lewis and Clark Trail in Washington. This network of Lewis and Clark interpretive experiences across our state will bring many educational



Basalt Cliffs in the Columbia River Gorge, view from Horsethief Lake State Park

and tourism benefits to our state and to those who come to visit here from other states across the country and other countries throughout the world.



"Indian dip netter at The Cascades," watercolor by Paul Kane, July, 1847

To capture the spirit of discovery, the network of interpretation across Washington must have an identifiable aesthetic (look and feel) that is continuous while also drawing upon the unique regional characteristics described in the journals. Many characteristics described in the journals are still visible today in Washington's diverse landscape.

The imagery related to the Lewis and Clark story can be drawn from both the physical environment and the cultural elements the Corps of Discovery saw and recorded in Washington. Elements of the landscape reflected in the look of Lewis and Clark interpretive elements will help to create a strong regional character, while cultural details will evoke the time and place of the Expedition. The Lewis and Clark interpretive aesthetic will be recognizable and continuous, and it will capture the excitement of exploring the uniqueness of each region, just as the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery did almost 200 years ago.

Please note: All journal excerpts in this chapter are from *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, Gary E. Moulton, Editor. Spelling and grammar are left just as they are in the journals.

III. Washington's Lewis and Clark Story

Imagery, Regional Context, and Suggested Interpretive Topics

Elements of Continuity

The iconography of the Corps of Discovery is etched in our cultural imagination. The image of buckskin clad frontiersmen led by two captains, one in a coonskin cap and the other in a military hat, commanding an exploration into the West through a land they had little knowledge of, is an image inherited through romanticized paintings, but also based on some truth. Through the journals, we know of their buckskin clothing, guns, dugout canoes, tools and other things they used, foods they ate, and materials they gathered. We know what they carried, what they traded, what they were given, what new things they saw, and other items so familiar to them at the time. These items have become artifacts inseparable from our image of them. From the stories passed down through the generations, we can begin to understand the perspectives of the people who were here when Lewis and Clark came through the area and aspects of their culture.

The items carried on the journey, as well as the items traded along the way, reflect the history of the era of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, providing visual and thematic clues. Elements of Native American culture the Corps of Discovery encountered, along with the materials and technologies they carried with them, can be distilled from the Lewis and Clark journals and from the stories of tribal descendants, and then interpreted in their context throughout Washington. This approach of context-sensitive interpretation across Washington will establish a sense of continuity throughout the network of interpretive exhibits across the state. Specific images and elements of the Lewis and Clark story that can reinforce this sense of continuity are summarized in more detail in the following text.



Double-coned woven hat

A Visit from a Wahkiakum Chief: *"In the evening a young Chief 4 men and 2 women of the War-ci-a-cum [Wahkiakum] tribe came in a large canoe with Wapto roots, Dressed Elk Skins &c. to Sell, the Chief made me a present of about a half a bushel of those roots — we gave him a medal of a Small Size and a piece of red ribin to tie around the top of his Hat which was made with a double Cone..."* William Clark, December 29, 1805 (It is believed that these visitors were led by Chief Skamokawa of the Wahkiakums, who lived on the north side of the river, just downstream from the present-day location of Skamokawa.)

American Indian Perspectives

The perspectives of the people who were here when the Lewis and Clark Expedition passed through this region provide important insight into the story of life before, during, and after the Corps of Discovery. The journals of Lewis and Clark have enlightened our understanding of the journey, yet in some cases, details are sketchy and questions are left unanswered. We can work closely with representatives from the tribes along the trail to help fill in some of these details as part of our interpretation of the story. Accurate interpretation of aspects of Native American culture that existed at the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition will be a critical part of telling the story. We can look to the tribes of each region for information such as:

III. Washington's Lewis and Clark Story

Imagery, Regional Context, and Suggested Interpretive Topics

- specific stories of the Expedition from Native American perspectives
- styles of houses and structures that existed at the time
- foods they ate, roots and plants they gathered, and herbal medicines they used
- tools and trading goods that were particularly valued
- clothing, including items worn daily and for ceremonial purposes
- interactions with wildlife; hunting and fishing activities
- customs and cultural beliefs
- insights into the life-styles of the tribes prior to contact with Euro-Americans

The Expedition led to events that forever changed the lives and cultures of the Native Americans living in this region. For this reason, representatives from many tribes feel the bicentennial anniversary of the Expedition provides not only an important opportunity to commemorate a significant event in history, but also to tell the story from the American Indian perspective. Many tribes have come forward to share their stories and perspectives related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and several tribal representatives have offered to assist with interpretive projects throughout the region. (Refer to the appendix for a list of people to contact.)

Early 1800s Frontier Exploration

In the early 1800s, the western lands were mostly unknown to the Europeans and Euro-Americans of the eastern United States. There was a drive to explore and exploit the West. These frontiersmen carried with them durable clothing, goods, and tools for survival in addition to their own naturalist's knowledge. Imagery used in interpretation related to this era should draw from earth-colored, natural materials, such as:

- rawhide moccasins
- buckskin clothing, (or wet and rotting buckskin near the coast)
- military issued uniforms of the era
- fur trapper clothing of the era
- dugout canoes

Some of the more technologically advanced items carried by explorers, like the air gun, were brought along as oddities, and express uniqueness rather than continuity, but there were some early industrial durable tools and essentials that compliment the “frontiersman” image, such as:

- guns
- axes
- knives
- cooking kettles
- surveying and mapping tools/equipment
- trade goods
- journals

Corps of Discovery

The Corps of Discovery was a military expedition put together by order of President Thomas Jefferson. The Corps had military order and organization under the direction of the captains. The majority of the group were soldiers with rank, duties, and discipline. The military and political images and references are part of the imagery of Lewis and Clark. Some elements to draw upon include:

- military issue items, such as uniforms, guns, and knives
- Jefferson “Peace and Friendship” medals and Washington seasonal medals and military tokens

Jefferson medal found near Wallula; believed to be the one given to Chief Yellepit.



III. Washington's Lewis and Clark Story

Imagery, Regional Context, and Suggested Interpretive Topics

- the 1803 United States flag

Trade

Trade practices provided a visual indication of the mix of cultures between different Native American tribes, and also between maritime traders and coastal tribes. Some items were almost a currency and a key to the survival of the party. In some cases, these items were given as gifts between the Corps of Discovery and the tribes. These essential items helped to befriend tribes and were used to purchase food, clothing, horses, canoes, and other items desperately needed by the party as they made their way to and from the Pacific Ocean. The trade items provide another important part of the Lewis and Clark story and its related imagery. Certain trade items that provide visual elements of continuity include:

- beads, bells, thimbles, buttons, and ribbons
- axes, knives, and kettles
- dried salmon, roots, horsemeat, berries, and other food
- pelts, baskets, and clothing items



Copper Trade Kettle

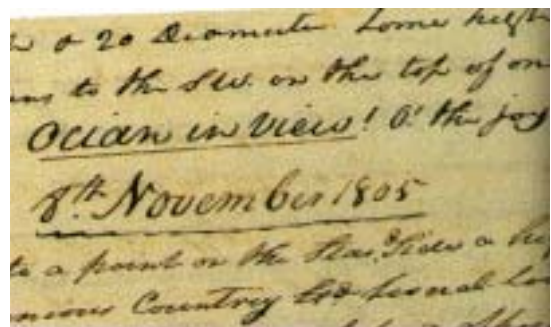
Trading with Chief Yellepit: 'This morning early the Great Chief Yel lip pet brought a very elegant white horse to our camp and presented him to me. Signifying his wish to get a kittle but being informed that we had already disposed of every kittle we could possibly Spare he Said he was Content with what ever I thought proper to give him. I gave him my Sward, 100 balls & powder and Some Small articles of which he appeared perfectly Satisfied...' William Clark, April 28, 1806

- uniforms
- Jefferson "Peace and Friendship" medals and other medals
- firewood

Age of Enlightenment

The period of history around the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition has been called the "Age of Enlightenment," when science and technology were evolving, but mass production and the age of the machine had not yet taken hold. Technological and scientific discovery increased the wonderment of the natural world; a wilderness not to be feared but to be understood, discovered, and exploited for the betterment of humankind. Through this understanding, a romanticism of nature permeated intellectual thought at the time. This enlightened fascination with the natural world and the romantic awe of nature comes through in vivid journal descriptions. Lewis and Clark interpretive imagery can tap into this through:

- journal entries describing physical geography
- journal maps and sketches
- scientific instruments to observe, measure and map, such as the compass and survey instruments



"Ocian in View!" from William Clark's journal, entry dated November 7, 1805

- journal descriptions and detailed sketches of new flora and fauna, as well as collected specimens

III. Washington's Lewis and Clark Story

Imagery, Regional Context, and Suggested Interpretive Topics

Traveling the Snake and Columbia Rivers and Anticipating the Pacific Ocean

The rivers and water are another visual element of continuity as the Corps of Discovery moved through what is now the State of Washington. On their route toward the Pacific Ocean, there was a sense of anticipation as the Corps moved through a continuous pattern of reoccurring rapids, and stark, open country interspersed with columnar and dark basalt walled canyons. Later, the greater landscape changed around them as they moved through the Columbia River Gorge and into the dense forests of the coastal region. The sense of anticipation with the ocean drawing nearer was a consistent element of the journey. The connection to the rivers, canyons, and water bodies is a strong “binding thread” throughout the state. This connection could be maintained through the proper siting of interpretive elements along these rivers.

Regional Imagery

The Lewis and Clark Expedition saw and described the dramatic change in climate, flora, fauna, and cultures as it passed from the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake rivers, down the Snake River (across today's Southeastern Washington,) then down the



The Snake River

Columbia River through the transitional terrain and climate of the Columbia Gorge, and out through the thick, wet forest, to the Pacific Ocean. The inherent regionalism the Corps of Discovery experienced during this part of their journey remains today in what is now Washington. At the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, this regional identity was even more pronounced. There was not only a variety of natural environments, but also the various Native American tribes along the route, each with its own distinct culture. Through the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, we have a picture of what it was like for the Corps of Discovery as they saw and met these tribes for the first time. Through communications with tribal representatives today, we can learn about their perspectives related to encounters with Lewis and Clark, and we can learn more about what the landscape looked like during that period of time.

Reflecting the natural regional characteristics in interpretive elements along the trail can be done through illustrations of native plants, animals, and materials from each region. Native materials can also be used in the construction of interpretive elements. To experience and enhance the understanding of the Expedition's meeting with the various native cultures at the time, some of the materials and methods of their architecture and craftsmanship could be reflected in the interpretive facilities (refer to Chapter V, “Outdoor Exhibits, Markers, and Other Elements” for ideas).

Key characteristics of the natural environment of the time and the cultures that were present can be drawn from each region. These characteristics are summarized in the following text.

III. Washington's Lewis and Clark Story

Imagery, Regional Context, and Suggested Interpretive Topics



Snake River region geology



*Indian sweat lodge
on the Columbia
River*



Columnar basalt

Southeastern Washington

Southeastern Washington is typically defined as extending from the southeast side of the Cascade Mountains to the Idaho border. For Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery, the experience of this environment occurred while they were traveling by water from the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake Rivers in Clarkston, Washington, to the Columbia River Gorge, as well as when they came overland through this area on their return. The overland return segment that occurred in what is today known as Southeastern Washington was one of the longest extents of the entire journey traveled by land. As Private Whitehouse described in his journal entry of October 10, 1805, “*No timber, barren & broken praries on each Side.*” Some of the key physical characteristics, materials, plants, animals and impressions include:

- *Earth:* Palouse hills, basalt outcrops, river rock
- *Vegetation:* Vast grasslands, sagebrush, prickly pear cactus, some cottonwoods and willow
- *Character:* Open, broad vistas, interspersed with black-walled canyons
- *Climate:* Dry and sunny
- *Colors:* Yellows, golds, and browns in fall and winter, greens in summer, sky blue

- *Animals:* Horses, white-tailed deer, dogs, sage grouse, salmon

This area was located in the western Plateau region, occupied predominantly by Native Americans from the Sahaptian language family; this included principally the Nez Perce (Clark called “Choppunish”) and also the Palouse, Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla, Warm Springs, Klikitat, Wishram and other tribes. At the confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers, the Corps of Discovery met the Wanapums and Yakamas (called the Sokulks and Chimnapums respectively by Clark). Here, a large number of families gathered from several tribes at the height of the fall salmon run. They referred to themselves as the “river people.” Some of the key impressions derived from the cultures of this region include:

- *Architecture:* Pit houses, sweat lodges, large tule mat long houses, mat covered fishing camp lodges, large scaffolds and timber pole frames for fish drying, and fish weirs; with the scarcity of timber, several tribes carefully collected and stored pieces of wood for use in stabilizing their structures and for picketing graves, but wood plank houses were rare in this region.
- *Clothing and other items:* Elaborate bead work on buckskin; basketry
- *Food:* Camas roots, dried salmon

III. Washington's Lewis and Clark Story

Imagery, Regional Context, and Suggested Interpretive Topics



Spring Creek Fish Hatchery in the Columbia River Gorge — at the transition between drier and wetter climates



"The Dalles," 1853, by John Mix Stanley. Apparently looks downstream from the head of Five Mile Rapids.



Salmon Fishing at Celilo Falls on the Columbia River. Photo courtesy of North Central Washington Museum

Columbia River Gorge

The Columbia River Gorge is a unique and scenic transitional area where the dry lands of the southeastern plateau meet the wet coniferous forests of Washington. Some of the key physical characteristics, materials, plants, animals and impressions of this region include:

- *Earth:* Basalt canyons, rock formations including Beacon Rock
- *Vegetation:* Oregon white oak, California hazelnut, Ponderosa pines
- *Character:* Closed-in, narrower black canyons, shadows, large falls and rapids
- *Climate:* Windy, transitional from dry to wet
- *Colors:* Black canyon walls, browns and greens above
- *Animals:* Salmon, birds, harbor seals

Like the landscape, this region had a transitional cultural character with the Yakama (seasonal), Warm Springs, Klikitat, upper Chinookan Wishram, Wasco, Chilluckittequaw, Skilloot, and other tribes. Some of the key impressions derived from the cultures of this region include:

- *Architecture:* Reed/tule mat and pole fish camps, pole lean-to's and drying racks, fishing scaffolding, cedar plank houses
- *Clothing and other items:* Mixed, some influence of maritime trade, shell jewelry, beads, bear grass, and cedar bark baskets
- *Food:* Salmon, filberts, berries, and wappato roots

III. Washington's Lewis and Clark Story

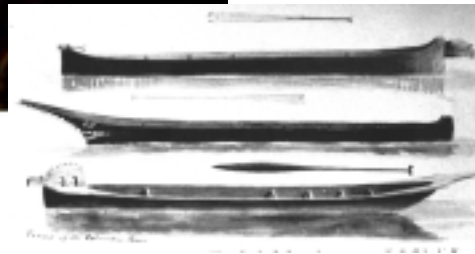
Imagery, Regional Context, and Suggested Interpretive Topics



The Pacific Ocean



"Salmon Fishing at Chenook" painting by James Swan



"Three Canoes and Paddles of the Columbia River" painting by Paul Kane

Southwestern Washington

Southwestern Washington stretches from the Columbia River Gorge through the lower Columbia Valley, to the dense, wet forests and the Pacific Ocean. Some of the key physical characteristics, materials, plants, animals, and impressions of this region include:

- *Earth:* Thickly forested hills, tidal lands, islands, sand beaches
- *Vegetation:* Large, dense coniferous forests with Douglas fir, western red cedar, Sitka spruce, hemlock, vine maple, big leaf maple, black cottonwood, and numerous native understory plants
- *Character:* Dense forest and gray skies to the ocean, estuary environment and islands along the river, then waves and whitecaps of the surf
- *Climate:* Very wet, rainy, coastal storms
- *Colors:* Green, gray
- *Animals:* Salmon, seal, abundant waterfowl including: ducks, geese, brant, cranes, gulls, swans, cormorants, and others, California condor, whale, Columbia white-tailed deer, abundant sea life

This region was predominantly occupied by Chinookan families, including the Cathlapotle, Wahkiakums, Chinook, and Clatsop Tribes, with a few Salishan Chehalis (Clark called Chiltz) and Cowlitz. Some of the impressions derived from the cultures of this region include:

- *Architecture:* Cedar plank houses, raised burial structures, carved canoes and other wood carvings
- *Clothing and other items:* Hats, clothing, and baskets woven from cedar, maritime trade influences
- *Food:* Salmon, shellfish, elk, berries, and wappato roots

III. Washington's Lewis and Clark Story

Imagery, Regional Context, and Suggested Interpretive Topics

Suggested Interpretive Topics

General Topics and Potential “Binding Threads”

If we think of the potential network of interpretive exhibits that will exist along the Lewis and Clark Trail in Washington as a “string of pearls,” there should be elements of consistency and continuity in the interpretation that act as “binding threads” tying the “pearls” of interpretation together statewide.

In addition to the aesthetic imagery that can be used to provide continuity throughout the interpretive system as discussed previously in this chapter, the approach to interpretive subject matter can also bring continuity. Some ideas include:

- *Documenting Science and Nature*

The identification of plants and wildlife along the journey; cataloguing of specimens; natural conditions along the route such as geology, vegetation, climate, etc. The journals of the Corps of Discovery provided a wealth of scientific information about the West and Clark's skilled cartography provided some of the first graphic depictions of this part of the country.

- *Time and Place*

Displaying elements of interpretation that show the chronological events of the Expedition relative to the time and place of the visitor, such as a timeline and/or milepost markers on the land and in the water.

- *Water*

Long portions of the Expedition were traveled by rivers in the quest to reach the Pacific Ocean and establish a principal trade route across the country. Water and water travel, including the different types of water craft used on the journey, the hierarchy of the rivers traveled, the differences between going upstream and downstream, experiences with rapids and falls on the Snake and Columbia Rivers, and portages around difficult segments are all examples of water-related elements that could be interpreted across Washington.



Clark's Map of Cape Disappointment

- *Journey*

The concept of the “journey” as a life experience; modern day travel as a journey relating to historic travel of these routes by Native Americans, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and other explorers and settlers.

- *Navigation*

The Corps of Discovery used various methods to chart their course and navigate their way through the journey, including techniques involving astronomical observations and surveying measurements that were state-of-the-art at the time.

- *Members of the Party*

At various points along the journey, journal excerpts describe important traits of various members of the party, including Sacagawea, Charbonneau, Drouilliard, Cruzatte, York, the Fields brothers, and others. A string of interpretive exhibits could contain a small subject area that is dedicated to a different member of the party at each location relevant to journal

III. Washington's Lewis and Clark Story

Imagery, Regional Context, and Suggested Interpretive Topics

descriptions of that person that occurred in that vicinity (i.e. Clark's mention of Sacagawea as a symbol of peaceful intentions of the Expedition after entering the Columbia River on October 19, 1805: "...the sight of This Indian woman, wife to one of our interprs. confirmed those people of our friendly intentions, as no woman ever accompanies a war party of Indians in this quarter...") Members of the party who are not as well known might be of particular interest.

- *Encounters with Tribes*

Interpretation of Native American culture should be provided as a consistent element throughout Washington in context with the tribes of the specific region. The stories of how tribes helped the Corps of Discovery along their journey can be told continuously across Washington.

- *Risk Taking and Adventure*

Countless journal entries from travels down the wild Snake and Columbia Rivers tell of the repeated risks taken in running the rapids. Clark's journal entry of October 14th, 1805 describes this episode on the Snake River: "...at 12 miles we Came too at the head of a rapid which the Indians told me was verry bad, we viewed the rapid found it bad in decending three Stern Canoes Stuk fast for Some time on the head of the rapid and one Struk a rock in the worst part, fortunately all landed Safe below the rapid which was nearly 3 miles in length."

William Clark, October 24, 1805 at the Short Narrows: "...in those narrows the water was agitated in a most Shocking manner boils Swell & whorl pools, we passed with great risque It being impossible to make a portage of the Canoes,

about 2 miles lower passed a verry Bad place between 2 rocks one large & in the middle of the river here our Canoes took in Some water, I put all the men who Could not Swim on Shore..."

- *Leadership, Teamwork, and Friendship*

The Lewis and Clark Expedition was one of the most successful explorations that has ever occurred. The success of the journey is credited to the strong leadership of the captains, their friendship for one-another, and the teamwork they inspired among their corps, as well as their respect for many tribes in appreciation of their help to the Corps.

- *Expansion of the West and Commerce/Trade*

A principal objective of the Expedition was to establish a route for commerce across the United States, ultimately leading to westward expansion by Euro-Americans and forever changing the landscape and the cultures of the people who were here before.

- *Multi-Culturalism/Diversity of the Party*

The make-up of the Corps of Discovery was diverse: Euro-Americans, Native Americans, French and French-Canadians, a child, a woman, an African American, Cruzatte, the fiddler, who was sighted in only one eye, and the ages of its members from eight months to forty years. The diversity of the party and their encounters with diverse native cultures along the journey can be interpreted. In keeping with the element of diversity, interpretation should reach a broad, diverse audience, with illustrations and text that can be appreciated by people of all ages and cultures.

III. Washington's Lewis and Clark Story

Imagery, Regional Context, and Suggested Interpretive Topics

Specific Topics and Example Themes

For Lewis and Clark interpretive exhibits, the following general topics and example themes relate to specific sites in Washington:

- Native American (example theme: Without the help of the Nez Perce, you may never have heard of the Corps of Discovery.)
- Flora and Fauna (example theme: When Lewis and Clark were here, the Columbia River was crowded with salmon and the river was clear.)
- Corps of Discovery Order (example theme: The first “vote” by a woman and an African American in the West happened here.)
- Geography/Mapping (example theme: Clark didn’t need a satellite to see from space to discern the landscape.)
- Tools/Artifacts/Possessions (example theme: Blue beads were so valuable, without them, the Corps of Discovery may have never finished their expedition.)
- Speed of the Journey (example theme: Traveling 30 miles a day downstream in a dugout canoe left little time to pause and take in the scenery.) Interpretation would go on to suggest that modern-day visitors have an opportunity to “savor their time in Washington” and to pause and appreciate some of the things the Corps of Discovery didn’t get a chance to.
- Back on the Map (example theme: By the time the Corps of Discovery reached the point where they could see the peaks of the Cascade Mountains, they knew they were “back on the map.”) Interpretation would tell the story of Lewis and Clark carrying George Vancouver’s maps with them from his explorations at the west coast and mapping of the Cascades.
- What was it they saw, smelled, and heard? (example theme: Class V rapids in a hollow log! It is possible to run rapids that are “Gut swelling, boiling, & whirling in every direction,” in a dugout canoe.)
[Journal Quote by William Clark, on the Columbia River in October 1805]
- Significant Events (example theme: Ocean in View? O! The joy? It’s hard to tell where the river stops and the ocean begins!)
- Then versus Now (example theme: This trail where the Corps of Discovery traveled overland, was once the busiest road in Washington.)
- Diverse Landscape and Climate in Washington (example theme: From prickly pear cactus to grand-daddy sized Douglas firs, the climate and landscape of Washington changes dramatically from east to west.)



Coastal forest environment of Cape Disappointment, Fort Canby State Park

IV. Interpretive Guidelines

"Interpretation is an educational activity that aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by firsthand experience and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate the factual information."
Freeman Tilden, Interpretive Author

Interpretation will be the link between visitors and the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the State of Washington. As such, it is important to strive to achieve the highest quality. To do this, you will need to go beyond these guidelines to add the human element and to creatively rebuild a moment in time. The interpretation will need a focused theme that is emotional and personal to the visitor. The interpretive text and graphics outlined here will help you and your interpretive designer support and enhance this theme.



*William Clark's Elkskin-Bound Journal,
recordings of October 26, 1805*

Interpretive Considerations

There are several considerations that should guide your thinking about interpretation at your site.

- Explore a theme from the Lewis and Clark Expedition story that is uniquely tied to your particular site.
- Integrate interpretive themes throughout all interpretation.
- Interpret by showing rather than telling; interpretation is a provocative visual art that is revelation, not just information.
- Make interpretation interesting, enjoyable, memorable, personal, dynamic, challenging, and historically accurate.
- Strive to leave an imprint of emotional inspiration that relates directly with the personality or experience of the visitor.
- Create continuity between interpretive elements, sites, and the story, while also enhancing the uniqueness of each.
- Consider seasonal change and changing weather conditions.
- Consider other points of view for each facet of the story.
- Use journal quotes from the members of the Corps of Discovery and graphics from the journals; they are the link between the past and present. Use the exact words and images from the journals to make certain the story is accurately told.
- Encourage connections to other sites.
- For foreign visitors, consider conveying information graphically or using other languages, if appropriate, and for clarity to all visitors, use international symbols.
- Mapping—the purpose of the map should define the way it is designed. For orientation maps, strive for clarity, orient to the land and setting (not necessarily with north up), and tie to the physical surroundings.
- Integrate with existing signage and other interpretation where appropriate.
- Consider persons of all abilities and ages; children need more sensory-oriented and interactive exhibits, while older adults may need exhibits that are easy to access and easy to read.

IV. Interpretive Guidelines

- All interpretive displays must be designed and constructed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Interpretive Themes

The interpretive theme is the central message or impression that visitors receive. It engages visitors and is the focus of an interpretive panel. A theme is a sentence that communicates a provable point about a topic. Interpretation uses facts and information to relay the thematic message. Composed through a panel's graphics and text, visitors remember interpretation based on a theme more than facts and information. It is much more interesting and understandable.

To focus the interpretive theme, consider the following:

- What are you trying to tell your visitors and what is the impression you want to make?
- Select information that directly supports the theme. A lot of information may seem important, but focus on the information and stories that reinforce the theme—all others should be eliminated. Every bit of information should be part of the theme.
- People learn best through sensory experience, so place more of an emphasis on the use of graphics, rather than text on panels. Also, relate the panel to the site to enhance the interpretive experience.



Eulachon or Candlefish from Journal

- The theme will connect visitors to their legacy of cultural and natural heritage and give meaning to the experience of the moment.
- Strengthen thematic unity by linking the place to the story.

To enhance the theme, remember that visitors will discover the most through an experience. The intellectual and emotional experience derives first from the visual, then from the other senses. Drama and authenticity should be exposed through journal quotes and graphics. Consider these guidelines:

- People remember ten percent of what they hear, 30 percent of what they read, 50 percent of what they see, and 90 percent of what they do.
- The 3-30-3 rule relays the concept that most visitors will receive the interpretive message in three seconds, some will take thirty seconds, and a few will spend up to three minutes. The interpretation should be developed to be understood for all types of visitors, and be evocative enough to hold visitors through each of these levels of interest.
- Less than 1 percent of visitors will read the entire text on a panel. The longer and more complex the text is, the less time visitors will spend reading it. About 40 percent of visitors will view graphic art, and photos. About 60 percent of visitors will enter kiosk type structures. Touchable interpretive items will attract about 90% of visitors.

IV. Interpretive Guidelines

Interpretive Graphics and Text

Layout

Interpretive panels are static objects that attract attention in a dynamic environment. Panels need to communicate quickly and dramatically, be important to the visitor, and relate to what the visitor sees and experiences. The layout of the panels should utilize an underlying layout grid. (See Panel Layout Grids in Appendices.) The grid is based on the National Park Service's standard layout for National Historic Trail exhibits providing a consistency for all interpretive work along the Lewis and Clark Trail. With consistent elements like title zone, outside dimensions, columns, and margins, the designer can be flexible and creative with the layout of graphics and text, and still keep the visual connection with all other Lewis and Clark Trail exhibits.

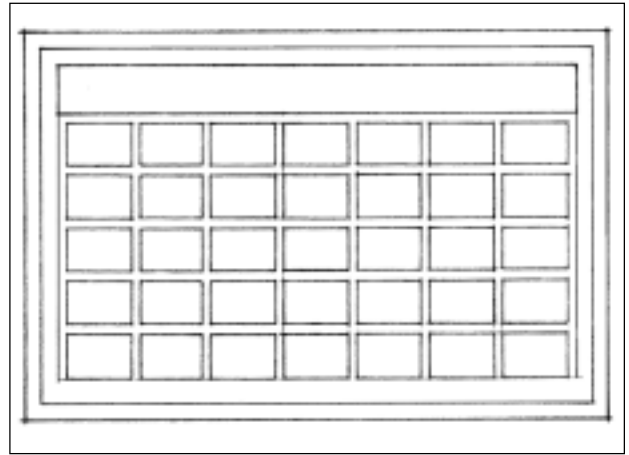
Graphics

Graphics give you the ability and power to convey the message visually. A single graphic image can replace many words, focus attention, and lead the eye through a message sequence. A strong image will catch the visitor's attention more than any other element.

Graphics should reveal hidden meanings and ideas, instead of duplicating what is seen at the site. Reward is high and effort minimal for interpretive graphics that convey detailed stories and ideas in concise and dramatic ways. They add beauty, interest, and can give an interpretive panel unity and personality.

As the design of the panels moves from concept to visual design, and then to final art, consider some graphic design and widely accepted rules of thumb often used by interpretive designers. These include:

- Keep the sign layout simple and uncluttered with enough open, unused



Sample Layout Grid (See the Appendix for dimensions.)

space to create visual interest. Try to keep one-third of the panel area open and unused. Avoid cluttering elements such as excessive decorative borders, complex typefaces, and too much text.

- Develop a strong center of interest or focal point, and a visual sequence from that focal point. Design with a planned order that guides the viewer through illustrations and type, from big items to small, from color to non-color, and from the unusual to the usual. Emphasis and contrast will let visitors know what is important and will create interest.
- Color is effective. Color attracts attention, improves readability, and increases memory retention. Warm advancing colors such as reds, oranges, and yellows are stimulating, while cool retreating colors like greens, blues, and violets are more relaxing.
- Lines direct viewers, tie elements together, and create a mood. Vertical lines suggest power, horizontal lines relay tranquility, and converging and diverging lines add depth and tension.

IV. Interpretive Guidelines

- Texture can create emphasis, separation, or unity.
- Use universally accepted symbols in addition to other graphics.
- Use balance.
Asymmetrical balance will make text and graphics appealing and create diversity, while symmetrical balance is more static.



National Park Service Standard Interpretive Panel

Images

The saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words" has much validity in interpretive work. Make sure all images and illustrations are historically and culturally accurate, and permission has been granted before using them. There are other considerations for the use of images in outdoor exhibits including:

- Quality
- Durability
- Production Techniques
- Availability of Source Material

Paper photographs tend to fade in the sunlight. Their life can be extended if embedded in fiberglass with an ultraviolet inhibiting agent, but for the best outdoor durability, reproduce the image in porcelain enamel. Some of the new digital output materials show promise. Using photos requires good source material, and original color slides work the best for color reproduction. For black and white, negatives are best.

There are a variety of graphic images that can be used including:

- Photos
- Drawings

- Artwork
- Lewis and Clark Trail logos, such as the Trailblazer Logo, the National Bicentennial Logo, and the Washington State Bicentennial Logo
- Lewis and Clark journal maps (with permission)
- Other historic maps
- Visitor orientation maps (will vary by use)

Type

In terms of the layout and visual appeal of a panel, type is another graphic element. Consider the following items related to the use of type:

- Type (font) style has unique and expressive character that can be used to enhance interpretation.
- Size of type suggests order to be read.
- Align letters for easiest reading, not necessarily mechanically.
- Set text flush left and ragged right (generally).
- Symbols and objects are more identifiable than words, they may be the only means of communication for nonreaders and foreign visitors. Use standard symbols as outlined

IV. Interpretive Guidelines

in the Code of Federal Regulations, Parks, Forests, and Public Property Vol. 36, Parts 1-1999.

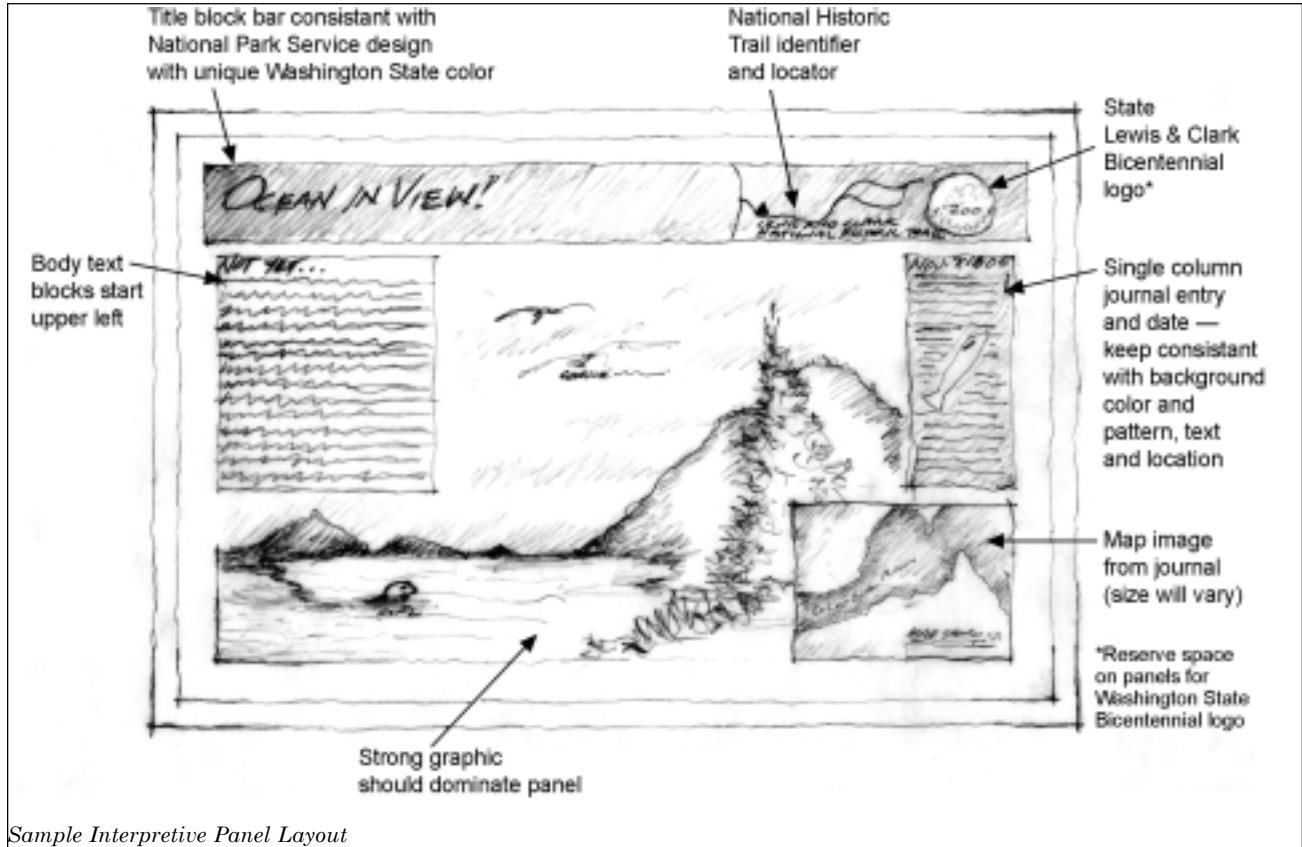
- Try not to mix too many font styles, it creates disharmony. Use italics, bold, and print size variation for emphasis.
- Type size should depend not only on emphasis but also on viewing distance.
- Consider readers that may be visually impaired. Contrasting colors between characters and background is most readable, light letters on a dark background are typically the easiest to read under most conditions.

For the design of the interpretive panels along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, we recommend adhering to the National Park Service (NPS) National Historic Trail standard types and type sizes.

(See the Appendix for recommended type style and font size samples from the NPS guidelines.) Most interpretive panel text should be ITC Century Book, which is a good readable serif style for signs (serif is a bar that crosses letter ends). For orientation and information panels, Helvetica Neue #75 should be used. In addition, to pick up on the quality of the Lewis and Clark Journals, the use of other (non NPS) special Lewis and Clark style types could be considered for journal entry quotes and side-bars. Consider fonts like Galliard Bold or Nicholas Cochin Bold for headings, Texas Hero for subheads, and Nicholas Cochin or Perpetua for body text (see Appendix).

Interpretive Text

The interpretive text should compliment a strong graphic layout. It should inspire, be memorable, and engage in a concise way.



IV. Interpretive Guidelines

Interpretive text is an art form of the essence. It should be organized, enjoyable, related to the reader, and thematic. Some considerations for interpretive text include:

- Ensure accuracy and clearly state if information is speculation or state the source. Credit all quotes.
- Focus on a Lewis and Clark Expedition related interpretive theme.
- Use short readable messages, short sentences, and short paragraphs (research shows that text blocks exceeding 50 to 75 words will lose the readers interest).
- Use nouns with active verbs.
- Inspire and provoke in bold and simple language.
- Use a minimal number of capital letters.
- Write text for the intended visitor with a level of understandability for the broadest range of visitors (generally the 7th grade reading level).
- Try for fresh perspectives, poetic twists, vivid imagery, and simple eloquence (sometimes powerful quotes work best).
- Involve the reader intellectually, emotionally, and even physically.
- Help the visitor see the site in a new way.
- Relate to the visitor's experience by using personal pronouns, personal language, and familiar terms.
- Illustrate with metaphors, analogies, quotes, and real examples.

Siting Interpretive Exhibits

The siting of interpretive exhibits is important for fully integrating the special characteristics of the site with the interpretation of the Lewis and Clark story. The following considerations will help guide the site design:

- Respect site sensitivity. Do not place interpretive exhibits in areas that may be habitat for rare or endangered flora and fauna, may be culturally sensitive by either having sacred value, traditional use, or archeological significance by Native Americans, or may have adverse impacts on private land owners.
- Draw on site characteristics such as views and access.
- Integrate regional materials.
- Tie interpretation to views and geographical features.
- Plant vegetation and landscaping that enhances the native site conditions and qualities. Whenever possible use flora noted in the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.



Existing interpretive panels along the Lewis and Clark Trail in Washington

- Site interpretive elements to achieve a unity in design with materials and colors that work with the surrounding landscape.
- Provide access for people of all abilities to experience the same or similar interpretive opportunities. All interpretive markers and their locations should meet the accessibility criteria established by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Use low angle panel mounting for those in wheelchairs, and use large text and a tactile experience for the visually impaired.

IV. Interpretive Guidelines

- Construct pathways and trails with durable materials and of the appropriate size for the trail type, anticipated level of use, and location.
- Ensure that scale, context, and placement relates to visitor interest but does not compete with or block out what is being interpreted.
- Do not intrude visually on the landscape and natural surroundings. Low angled interpretation is best for fitting in with the landscape and being read by children and those in wheelchairs. Keep larger panels within kiosks or in nonsensitive areas.
- Consider the changing site conditions during all seasons, weather, and the time of day.
- When incorporating or replacing new interpretation with existing Lewis and Clark interpretation, review the existing interpretation for content, quality, and soundness. Replace, update, and correct interpretive exhibits as needed, or creatively and sensitively unify new interpretation with the existing through site enhancement, and possibly new bases and stands.